



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
Telephone: (626) 458-5100  
www.ladpw.org

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

June 7, 2004

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE: A-0

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes  
Director of Public Works

### **STATE PROPERTY TAX SHIFT EFFECT ON PUBLIC WORKS' SPECIAL DISTRICTS**

This memo is to inform you of the effect of the State's anticipated property tax shift will have on Public Works' Special Districts. Currently, the property tax shift (loss) to Public Works' Special Districts funds is anticipated to total approximately \$26 million and involves the Flood Control District (\$20 million), 21 Lighting Maintenance Districts (\$3.3 million), 6 Garbage Disposal Districts (\$1.5 million), and 5 Waterworks Districts (\$1.1 million). Following are our plans to respond to the funding reductions:

#### **FOR THE FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT (\$20 MILLION)**

- \$11.2 million of net reductions in construction contracts currently included in the proposed 2004-05 Flood Control District budget. The originally planned projects that will be deferred and contracts that were added due to unanticipated need are shown on Attachment A. There will be no funds for construction of new storm drains.
- \$3 million to \$4 million of staff labor (25 to 40 employees) currently included in the proposed 2004-05 Flood Control District budget will be reallocated to other funds. Identification of affected staff is underway and I do expect that the affected staff will mostly be at our headquarters and will allow most staff to remain with their present division. Current Flood field operations are, at this time, not affected. I plan to reassign staff as of July 1.
- \$4 million to \$5 million of services and other items will be eliminated or reduced. These reductions will include items such as:
  - \$2,000,000 in water conservation consultant studies.

- \$928,000 for building refurbishment and renovations.
  - \$700,000 allocated to support DPSS' JAWS/PAAWS Programs.
  - \$240,000 for Earth Day Programs that will reduce the scope of the earth days to two earth days in Fiscal Year 2004-05.
  - \$165,000 of contract support for graffiti removal; Flood field crews will be then utilized in lieu of contractors. This will affect our current performance standards in graffiti removal.
- \$1.1 million for new and replacement equipment.
  - 50 percent of the Department's proposed Training/Travel Budget; this will involve canceling the Department's Nationwide Recruitment Program for 2004-05.

Other items of significance that I wish to note is that:

The proposed budget does include \$4 million of support to the Parks & Recreation Department for expenses allowed by the Los Angeles County Flood Control Act relative to recreation, as well as \$1.5 million of support to the Beaches and Harbors Department for expenses associated with beach debris cleanup. These allocations were made several years ago to help these departments. The Board may choose to retain these funds, or a portion of them, for direct Flood control purposes. Attachment B lists programs/projects that would be restored if any funding for these activities is suspended.

I have directed a hard freeze for new hires involving Flood funds and requests for other new hires will first attempt to utilize existing staff currently funded by Flood funds.

The budget does include all funds needed as a local match for current grant projects. However, future grants will be lost because we will not have the required matching Flood funds available for the 2005-06 fiscal year.

The San Gabriel River Master Plan has been under development since 1999. It has involved dozens of stakeholders and is expected to be approved this summer. We will have no funds for construction of projects until Fiscal Year 2007-08 or later.

I have been advising your offices that significant revenue increases will be necessary for the Flood Control District to implement Federal Clean Water Act stormwater water quality regulations scheduled by the Regional Water Quality Control Board over the next

Each Supervisor  
June 7, 2004  
Page 3

several years. Sufficient funds are in the 2004-05 budget to meet these requirements. However, as the scope of the regulation incrementally increase, compliance costs will severely impact our water conservation programs and our ability to effectively operate and maintain the flood control system without additional revenue.

**FOR THE 21 LIGHTING MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS (\$3.3 MILLION)**

Existing designations will be utilized for this loss; however, this will accelerate our anticipated assessment rate increases in some of the districts, beginning in Fiscal Year 2005-06. It should be noted that any rate assessment increase is subject to Proposition 218 and if not approved, will most likely result in street lights being disconnected.

**FOR THE 6 GARBAGE DISPOSAL DISTRICTS (\$1.5 MILLION)**

For Fiscal Year 2004-05, the districts will utilize existing fund balances to offset this loss; however, the anticipated rate increases in Fiscal Year 2005-06 will now be greater than expected since reserves will be depleted.

**FOR THE 5 WATERWORKS DISTRICTS (\$1.1 MILLION)**

Districts 21 (Kagel Canyon, SD 5), 36 (Val Verde, SD 5), and 37 (Acton, SD 5) are incurring minimal property tax losses and will utilize lower than budgeted water purchases and higher than budgeted miscellaneous revenue that are now being anticipated. District 29 (Malibu, SD 3) Capital Outlay Fund will delay projects. District 40 (Antelope Valley, SD 5) Capital Outlay and Maintenance Funds will require rate increases in Fiscal Year 2004-05, and District 29 Maintenance Fund will require a rate increase in Fiscal Year 2005-06.

Should you or your staff have any further questions, please call me or your staff may contact Mr. Don Wolfe at (626) 458-4002.

CWA:ad

C:\Adrine\Memo to Each Supv 6.3.04

Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office  
Executive Office  
Department of Human Resources (Michael J. Henry)

**CONTRACT REDUCTION****Bull Creek Drain Rehabilitation – Balboa Boulevard to Rinaldi Street .....\$2,000,000**

The purpose of this project is to permanently repair the Bull Creek Storm Drain in the City of Los Angeles that was damaged in the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Repairs to temporarily restore the structural integrity of the damaged storm drain were completed in 2001. This project involves repairing approximately 5,500 linear feet of the existing reinforced concrete box storm drain by sealing existing cracks in the concrete box structure.

**Hollyhills Drain, Unit 8B, Phase 2 .....\$10,082,200**

The purpose of this project is to alleviate flooding in the project area, improve vehicular and pedestrian safety on area streets during and after moderate to heavy storms and eliminate the mandatory flood insurance zone in the surrounding drainage area. This project involves construction of approximately 3,500 linear feet of reinforced concrete storm drain pipe in the Cities of Los Angeles and West Hollywood.

**Stokes Canyon – Drop Structures .....\$130,000**

The purpose of this project is to prevent further erosion of the channel bottom and levee along Stokes Canyon in the unincorporated County territory of Monte Nido adjacent to the City of Calabasas. This project involves construction of two erosion control structures, approximately 43 feet wide and 25 feet long, in Stokes Canyon.

**Tuxford Green .....\$2,000,000**

The purpose of this project is to alleviate flooding at the intersection of San Fernando Road and Tuxford Street in the Sun Valley community of the City of Los Angeles. This project involves the construction of approximately 1,600 linear feet of reinforced concrete storm drain pipe. In addition, water quality improvement and water conservation devices and educational signage are also proposed.

**PROJECTS ADDED DUE TO UNANTICIPATED NEEDS****Big Dalton and San Dimas Dams – Additional Sediment Removal .....\$2,000,000**

The purpose of this project is to restore the capacity behind the Big Dalton and San Dimas Dams to maintain existing level of flood protection to the downstream areas. Due to the recent fires, your Board approved the removal of 1.2 million tons of sediment from Big Dalton and San Dimas Dams at a cost of \$8,283,360 in June 2003. However, based on our September 2003 survey, an additional 500,000 tones of sediment need to removed at an approximate cost of \$2,000,000.

**San Gabriel Dam – 84” Valve Rehabilitation .....\$250,000**

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the deteriorated 84” valve at San Gabriel Dam to maintain the existing level of flood protection to the downstream areas. The valve is currently inoperable.

**Puddingstone Dam – Back-up Gates Repair .....\$750,000**

The purpose of this project is permanent repair the back-up gates at Puddingstone Dam to maintain the existing level of flood protection to the downstream areas. This project involves the replacement of two existing damaged back-up gates with one new gate with electric motor operator, installing a steel penstock liner, and hardened access door. The existing back-up gates are beyond their design life and have been temporarily repaired to accommodate dam operations.

## ATTACHMENT B

### PRIORITY ORDER FOR RESTORATION OF DELAYED OR REDUCED CONTRACTS AND SERVICES

**Graffiti Abatement Support Contract Reduction. . . . . \$165,000**

This will restore the graffiti abatement support contract to full funding so we can meet the response standard.

**Earth Day Events Reduction. . . . . \$240,000**

This will restore funding to five earth days.

**JAWS/PAAWS Program. . . . . \$700,000**

Crews are used mainly for weed removal along out channel right of way. They are also used for trash and debris collection and removal, and right-of-way vegetation removal from channels not covered by the R/W clearing contracts. This will help us keep our facilities clean.

**As-needed Vacuum Truck Contract Reduction. . . . . \$150,000**

This is used for the maintenance and upkeep of the subdrain system. Restoration will keep us on schedule for the maintenance of the subdrains in the south area.

**Trash-free Channel Contract Reduction. . . . . \$140,000**

These contracts call for the removal of all trash from determined channels. Restoration will keep us on schedule and reduce the amount of trash that reaches the ocean.

**Landscape Maintenance Contracts Reduction. . . . . \$168,000**

This is the landscaping for the LACDA portion of the LAR, and reducing it by \$100,000 eliminates a second cutting that is in the contracts as an optional item. Over the last two years, this second cutting was needed and performed by the contractor. By doing this work, we reduce the number of complaints we get from the City of Long Beach's residents.

**Stokes Canyon – Construct Three Drop Structures. . . . . \$130,000**

Refer to Attachment A.

**Dominguez Gap Pump Plant Upgrade (New Item). . . . . \$1,500,000**

The project involves the replacement of two pumps and their associated equipment, all of which were originally installed in 1960. Originally scheduled for Fiscal Year 2005-06, however, frequent repair would make replacement at an earlier date desirable.

**Automated Reservoir Reporting System Phase 2 Consultant Contract. . . . . \$950,000**

This consultant contract would be a continuation of implementing the ARRS for the management and operation of the 14 dams and reservoirs that will streamline and automate the process of data collection and reporting.

**Spreading Grounds Operations. . . . . \$350,000**

Turbidity Study Consultant Contract significant opportunities for water conservation have been lost as a result of high turbidity of storm water. This study would evaluate the turbidity criteria for storm water and develop a modern system for monitoring the quality of storm water at the headworks to the spreading grounds.

**Well Redevelopment Services for West Coast Basin Barrier Project Consultant Contract. . . . . \$525,000**

This service is currently done by Public Works drilling crews. This proposed contract would allow us to free up our in-house drilling crew to ease the backlog of drilling work required at our flood control dams. The drilling work at the dams cannot be easily contracted out.